

by the examiner and appears upon a separate sheet attached to this amendment.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this patent application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10,12,14-19,21, and 23 have been rejected as being anticipated by Haruki et al. under 35 USC 102; and Claims 11,13,20, and 22 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Haruki et al. in view of Netherlands under 35 USC 103. Claims 1-23 remain active in this patent application.

The interview granted by Examiner Nguyen is hereby acknowledged and sincerely appreciated as a means for expediting the prosecution of this patent application toward allowance. During the course of the interview, it was noted to

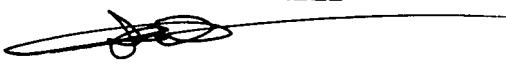
the examiner that in accordance with the present invention, there has been provided a system for handling and sorting mail wherein, in accordance with the unique and novel aspect of the present invention, a plurality of compartments are arranged in accordance with a predetermined delivery address sequence in order to facilitate the orderly delivery of mail pieces to the delivery addresses in accordance with such predetermined sequence. This predetermined delivery address sequence is specifically exemplified within the specification at, for example, Page 15, lines 13-18, wherein it is particularly noted that each one of the storage trays represents a street delivery address, such as, for example, "36 Main Street", "38 Main Street", and the like. This is to be distinguished from Haruki et al. which admittedly discloses a mail sorting system, however, the system of Haruki et al. is entirely lacking in connection with any teaching of providing compartments arranged in accordance with the aforementioned delivery address sequence which is uniquely characteristic of the present invention. To the contrary, Haruki et al. simply sorts mail pieces by postal codes. For example, it is disclosed in Haruki et al., at Column 4, lines 36-38, that the optical character reader (OCR) of the letter sorting machine (LSM) 63 detects the postal codes on the postal

matter. Furthermore, as disclosed at Column 6, lines 44-53, and in connection with **FIGURE 6**, the postal matter is deposited or stacked in different code-bins A-10,A-11,B-10,C-5, and the like, depending upon the detected postal codes "000", "001", "003", "999", and the like.

Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, it was agreed by the examiner that the presently claimed invention patentably defined over the prior art of Haruki et al., and it is additionally submitted that the Netherlands reference does not rectify the deficiencies of Haruki et al.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that this patent application is now in condition for allowance, and therefore, an early and favorable action to this effect is now anticipated and awaited.

Respectfully Submitted,
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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

a | A letters/flats transporting, handling, and sorting system is disclosed for handling an initially random mixed input of letters and flats and for sorting the letters and flats into a delivery address sequence for delivery by postal service personnel as a result of only a single pass of the letters and flats through the system. Sequencing modules include loading trays and storage trays. The storage trays represent individual delivery address destinations and are arranged in delivery address sequence. Incoming letter and flat mail is deposited within the loading trays and the loading trays are individually actuated so as to transfer the letter and flat mail pieces into the proper delivery address storage trays whereupon the completion of the processing of an entire batch of incoming mail, all mail will be sorted in delivery address sequence within the storage trays which may then be emptied for ultimate delivery in their address sequence by the postal service personnel.

Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A letters/flats transporting, handling, and sorting system is disclosed for handling an initially random mixed input of letters and flats and for sorting the letters and flats into a delivery address sequence for delivery by postal service personnel as a result of only a single pass of the letters and flats through the system. Sequencing modules include [comprise] loading trays and storage trays. The storage trays represent individual delivery address destinations and are arranged in delivery address sequence. Incoming letter and flat mail is deposited within the loading trays and the loading trays are individually actuated so as to transfer the letter and flat mail pieces into the proper delivery address storage trays whereupon the completion of the processing of an entire batch of incoming mail, all mail will be sorted in delivery address sequence within the storage trays which may then be emptied for ultimate delivery in their address sequence by the postal service personnel.



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED:

8
01/27/03

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of this application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed on Nov. 6, 02

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23

☒ The drawings filed on 06/06/01 are acceptable as formal drawings.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____

☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS, OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION.** This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☐ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Any reply to this notice should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.